

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8765

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR LEADERS MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER

REF: ROME 17394

1. PRIME MINISTER MORO, TOGETHER WITH MINISTER OF THE TREASURY COLOMBO, MET WITH TOP TRADE UNION LEADERS ON DECEMBER 21. PRIME TOPICS OF CONVERSATION WITH LAMA, STORTI AND VANNI OF CGIL, CISL AND UIL WERE PENSIONS (THE UNIONS WANT FLAT MONTHLY INCREASES OF \$25 FOR ALL PENSIONERS), JOB SECURITY, GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOMES AND LABOR'S DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED WAGE ESCALATION PAYMENTS.

2. THIS FIRST ENCOUNTER SERVED TO INDICATE THE DISTANCE SEPARATING THE TWO SIDES. MORO DWELT UPON THE GRAVITY OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND REITERATED HIS CALL FOR RESTRICTING 1975 WAGE COST INCREASES TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 PERCENT. THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) STATED IT WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE MEETING, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE "FROM THE INDICATIONS FURNISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THERE EMERGED NO PROPOSALS REGARDING REFORMING THE PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

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AND IN PARTICULAR ... THE NEED FOR COMBATTING PARASITISM AND ... A

MORE RIGOROUS STRUGGLE AGAINST FISCAL EVASION."

3. NEW TALKS BETWEEN TOP LABOR LEADERS AND MORO HAVE BEEN SET FOR JANUARY 2.

4. COMMENT: LABOR'S FIRST CONFRONTATION WITH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WAS, IN THE WORDS OF CORRIERE DELLA SERA, "A COLD SHOWER." WHILE THE POST-MEETING CCU STATEMENT WAS NEGATIVE, IT WAS NOT MENACING IN THE WAY ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED. LABOR KNOWS FULL WELL THE GRAVITY OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND IS PROBABLY AS ANXIOUS TO ASCERTAIN THAT OTHER ELEMENTS ARE BEING CALLED UPON TO SHARE EQUALLY IN THE RIGORS OF AUSTERITY AS IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR VARIOUS DEMANDS. FROM LABOR'S STANDPOINT, THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS ON THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NECESSARY RETRENCHMENT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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